Housing needs

1161. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment about the total housing needs in the country especially for the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to address the problem on a long-term basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the estimates made by the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the 10th Five year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million. Out of this shortage of 21.78 million units is for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

(c) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 seeks to set in motion a process for providing "Affordable Housing for All" particularly for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG) through various types of public-private partnerships. However, as the subjects 'land' and 'colonization' come under the purview of State Governments, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to deal with the problem of housing needs in the urban areas.

Apart from NUHHP—2007 the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government in 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the sub-mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Further, a provision of Rs. 95 crores has been made in the current financial year 2008-09 to provide for the proposed interest subsidy scheme for housing loans to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG).

Employment guarantee scheme in urban areas

1162. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to implement the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) in urban areas as a measure of poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) As the conditions are different in urban areas compared to rural areas, there is no such proposal.